

Meetings and Ceremonies

Early Press Coverage

Mike Michaelson, Director, Radio-TV Gallery, U.S. House of Representatives

Explanation of the special attention given to early television coverage in the House.

Interview recorded June 30, 2009.

I didn't work with the other galleries at all. I knew what my job was to be, and what I wanted done, and if I had a problem, I'd go to the Speaker. I don't recall going. I had to go to somebody to get permission to do that. And it may have been the Speaker's Office. Mike Reed was Speaker Albert's assistant, Gary Hymel was Speaker O'Neill's assistant, and they were very savvy about the media needs. The press corps could go anywhere they wanted. They had a pad and a pencil, and they could stop a Member anywhere, "Oh, what did you think of the State of the Union?" We had to have equipment, electronics and stuff like that, so we had to have a little special attention, and we usually got it from the police and the Clerk of the House, and the Sergeant at Arms to oversee the orderly conduct of the procedure.